

TWO LETTERS FROM THE PRESBYTERY

of CARRICK-FERGUS, to the Lord Ards, And his answer

to the first of them.

Right Honourable

THe present strange alteration of affaires, moves us to write our minde freely to your Lordship: Especially since (as it appears now clearly) you have been the chief author of all these present calamities. Wee would first put your Lordship in minde of the hazard you were in before the Covenant was renewed, and how ye complied with us then for your owne safety, with solemnity and forwardnesse ye renewed the Covenant, Ye your selfe first moved and framed a Declaration in opposition to *Malignant* courses, & all the present enemies of the Cause of God. In the propositions to be offered to the King, you agreed that these concerning Religion, should be first offered, and if these were not granted, no other should bee presented: Your Declaration also beares very large profession both in generally that ye would do nothing in reference to Religion without our consent and advice, and that least God should leave you to fall in error, and particularly that ye would acknowledge the Kings Demands, when he should give satisfaction in securing Religion before he were admitted to the exercise of his Royall Power, you all along shew your selfe ready to subscribe all orders against *Malignants*, and so by ample professions, engag'd us the more deeply to give credite to your Declarations, and trust your faithfulness: Yet nevertheless your Lordship hath had secret dealing to bring in *Malignants*, and had correspondence with them, and all this time has been dealing subtilly in your heart, professing one thing, and intending another: which has been a most notorious deceit to insnare the people of God, to advance your most sinister ends, Who could have believed that your Lordship would have avowed a Commission from the King, when he yet refuses as much as his Father to secure Religion, but followes wicked counsell, and so avowedly to violate that Article of your Declaration; or that ye would owne a wicked association of *Irish Papists*, and under color of strengthening, should have betrayed that Garrison of *Belfast*. We must be faithfull in warning your Lordship, (tho the Lord knowes what heaviness it is to us) that the Lord will reward you if ye repent not for such a betraying of the faithfull servants of God, who would have plucked out their eyes for you, and the Lord will visite your familie with sudden ruine, and irreparable desolation for that you have been so grand an instrument to destroy the work of God here. We exhort your Lordship in the Name of the living God, to whom ye must give an account, in haste to forsake that infamous and ungodly course you are in, and adhere to your former profession, otherwayes all the calamities that will ensue, will be laid on your score. The Lord himselfe and all the faithfull will set themselves against you, and we will testifie of your unfaithfulness to the world so long as the Lord shall give us strength, we shall yet continue to pray for your Lordships conversion, and shall expect your answer remaining.

At Carrickfergus June 29. 1649.

Your Lordships servants in all duty,
the Ministry of the Presbytery.

Reverend Friends,

ICannot but with unexpressible grief resent the bitter expressions and ill grounded wrong aspersions you are pleased to cast upon me in your Letter, as if I had secretly brought in Sir George Monroe his partie into this Countrey, and so have been the chief Author of all these present distractions, whereof God the searcher of hearts is my witnesse, I am free (notwithstanding of the jealousies raised upon some expressions in that Letter of Sir George Monroe to Sir Robert Stewart which was intercepted) and that among other many prevalent reasons and motions (too long heere to expresse) inducing at this time to own his Majesties commission. It was not the betraying, but the securing of these Garrisons from Sir George his party, which in our distracted & disjoynted condition for want of authority, and by reason of the Souldiours affection to their former Officers were likely to be rendered to him. The Lord he knows that the preservation of the established Church government your peace, the good and quyet of this poor corner, and the advancement of Religion according to the Covenant, (all which by privat underminers to your own knowledge were in apparent hazard of ruine) are the chief reasons which induces me to this course of making use of that Authority as the only mean to secure us, (being so united under command from the violence of opposers hereunto. I request you therefore, and untill my carriage (after that now I am clothed with Authority,) may witnesse whether my intentions and resolutions be not according to my profession, you would be pleased to have more charitable thoughts of me and rest assured that I am,

Belfast, June 30: 1649.

Your affectionately faithfull
Friend and Servant,
MONTGOMERY.

Right Honourable,

WE received yours wherein you with griefe resent our bitter expressions, and ill grounded wrong aspersions (as much as to call them false) which you say we cast upon your Lordship. Truly our expressions floweth from the bitterness of griefe and sorrow, and not disaffection towards you: You have often known our abundant affections, and endeavour to serve your Lordship in our stations. These which your Lordship calls wrong aspersions, are the words of truth and sobernesse, intercepted letters from that party, together with Colonell Conawayes discovery of that which is now clear, with many other circumstances of your Lordships latter carriage, and the exact correspondance between Colonell Monroes motions and yours dos evince the reality of our assertions as well as his own letter, which we believe spake neither affection nor a conjecture of your Lordships designe being written to such a close friend. It is a sad jest to your Lordship to tell us that it was the securing of these Garrisons from Colonell George Monroe that moved you to put on that commision; whereas by the conjunction of your Lordships forces and command, hee lyes before this Garrison to destroy it. It were a good prooffe of the reality of your purpose: If yee should with your whole power urge him to remove, which if yee were cordiall in, were easy to do. Neither know wee how to believe that your Lordships present course is intended for the good of Religion and the Covenant, when yee are not only associate with the enemies of both, but your commision, as we are informed, subjects you to the immediate commands of the Marquesse of Ormond, whose infamous and irreligious peace made with the Rebels, may easily tell us what establishment to the Covenant, or Presbyteriall government wee may expect from his Orders and Authority, his own printed speech to the Counsell of *Kilkenny*, explaines to us his reall resolutions concerning Religion, to maintain Christian Religion in the large extent, and not under a strict notion of new invented names, and besides the King yet refusing to secure Religion, how shall you establish it, except ye do very far transgresse the limits of your commision: which we beleeve you desire no man to think. In a word your Lordship hath but reassumed the old quarrell which the Engadgers the last year, and before them, James Grabame and the *Malignants* in England were of old pursuing: Neither we are confident; will it prosper better in your hands nor it did in theirs. The Lord in Justice hath declared his displeasure against that course, and will do so against all them who seeks to advance the King against Christs throne, and even while hee refuses to give Christ his due first. We would therefore yet again as lovers of the standing of Christs King-dome and of your Lordships salvation, as the Messengers of God beseech your Lordship before you run a further hazard of the Lords wrath, to leave off that ungodly course, and take better means to effectuate the good of Religion. Remember those who honours God he will honour, and these who despise him, shall be lightly esteemed of: Whereas your Lordship desire our charity towards you: Truly as wee have ever testified a due respect to your selfe and family, wee shall yet continue: but you have involved your Lordship already so far in the guilt of unfaithfulness to the cause of God and your own subscriptions, that we cannot but retestifie against the course you are in, and denounce judgment upon your person, family, and all your party, til the Lord perswade your heart to returne, which shall be our fervent desire, and shall remaine,

At Carrickfergus the 2 of July, 1649,

Your Lordships servants in all dueitfull observation
the Ministry of the Presbytery.